11 Reasons Why I Love Thailand

*By Nomadic Matt | Published December 7th, 2011*

I’ve been to Thailand more times than I can count. People often ask me why I return to places I’ve already visited instead of exploring somewhere new. Well, that’s an easy answer – it’s because I feel attached to them.  And Thailand is probably the one place outside of the US where I feel most at home.

**The Delicious Food**  
  
Thai food in Thailand is leagues better than anywhere else in the world. There’s more variety and more flavors. Your mouth dances with a concert of flavors when you eat here. The food has kick to it, too. I always order “mai pet” which means “not spicy” because by Thai standards that means only one chili. All over the streets of Thailand, outdoor stalls serve up the cheapest and best Thai meals you can find. And no matter what time of the day it is, there’s always food available somewhere.



**The Warm Weather**

Even though there’s a monsoon season in Thailand, I love the heat and the fact that it is always hot and humid in Thailand appeals to me. It’s never jacket weather and I can always wear a t-shirt and shorts.

**The Friendly Locals**  
  
Thais are some of the nicest people I have ever met. They are always happy, always smiling, extremely polite and always helpful. They will help you out if you are in trouble and help translate for you if you can’t speak Thai. They treat you well and whenever I come back here, the local shop owners whose stores I frequent greet me with a warm smile and big hug. Thais have amazing memories and once a friend, always a friend. I always feel safe in Thailand. Thais rarely steal or cause any problems.

**It’s Perfect for Travel**  
Thailand is smack dab in the middle of everything. It’s 3 hours to Hong Kong, 2 hours to Singapore, 4 hours to Bali, half way between Australia and Europe. You can get to a lot of places easily from Thailand, which when you are a traveler like myself, is really appealing. And, you can get to many of these destinations cheap. I’m heading to Singapore tomorrow for 4 days and it only cost me $120 USD roundtrip on Tiger Airways. Not a bad deal and not a bad way to spend the weekend.



**The Postcard Perfect Tropical Islands**  
I love the beach. I can sit on the sand and go for a swim for hours upon end. Heading down south near the Malaysian border, I think you find the best islands. They all look like the above picture and a place like that is simply heaven to me.

**The Lush Jungles**

As much as I enjoy sitting on the beach, I also love to hike through jungles, and Thailand has some of the most beautiful and lush ones I’ve seen. From the jungles and elephants in Khao Yai National Park, to Khao Sok in the south with its famed lake, to the famous jungle and hill tribe treks near Chiang Mai, you can get your tropical jungle fix very easily here. They may not be the wild and untamed jungles of some places in Borneo or the middle of Africa but they still offer amazing views, dense forests, waterfalls to cool off in, and an interesting variety of wildlife.

**It’s Cheap!**  
Thailand is cheap to visit and cheap to live in. Yesterday, I spent $4 USD for all of my food for the day, including some drinks and snacks. Most food from the street vendors costs $1. I can get a private room for $10 USD per night, or a bungalow in front of the beach for $15- 20 USD. Thailand simply offers incredible value for your money.